

REMARKS

In the June 4, 2009 Office action, claims 5, 27, 30, and 31 were allowed. Additionally, claims 6-12, 14, and 18-23 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected claim, but included subject matter that would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants have rewritten claims 6, 8, 18, and 21 so that the claims are presented in independent form.

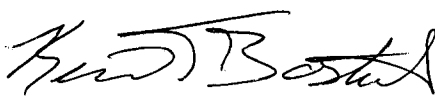
Claims 28 and 32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,962,806 to Eby (hereinafter, "Eby"). Claim 28 has been amended to depend from allowable claim 18. Accordingly, applicants assert that claim 28 is allowable for at least the same reasons that claim 18 is allowable. Further, claim 32 has been canceled, thus rendering the rejection of claim 32 moot. For these reasons, withdrawal of the § 102(b) rejection of claims 28 and 32 is respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 3, 15, 17, 25, 29, and 33-35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Eby in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,355,604 to Rathke (hereinafter, "Rathke"). Regarding claims 2 and 3, these claims ultimately depend from allowable claim 21, accordingly applicants asserts that claims 2 and 3 are allowable for at least the reasons that claim 21 is allowable. Regarding claim 17, the claim depends from allowable claim 8, and is thus allowable for the same reasons as claim 8. Finally, claims 15, 25, 29, and 33-35 are canceled, rendering the rejection moot as it applies to these claims. For these reasons, applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the § 103 rejection.

For the foregoing reasons, applicants believe that this case is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney by phone should any matters remain for attention before a Notice of Allowance can be issued.

Respectfully submitted,

GREER, BURNS & CRAIN, LTD.

By 
Kevin T. Bastuba
Registration No. 59,905

December 3, 2009

Suite 2500
300 South Wacker Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60606
(312) 360-0080

Customer No. 24978